Ottawa Police Service

Security Intelligence Section

Intelligence Assessment

FREEDOM CONVOY

Ottawa, January 29, 2022

Intelligence Assessment

Prepared by:

Sgt Chris Kiez

OPS SIS

January 28, 2022

VERSION 3

THIRD PARTY RULES

Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Overview 3
Current Conditions 4
What This Means for Event Planners 5
Security Issues: Overview 5
Active intelligence investigations 5
Criminal/Terrorist threat 6
Current National Threat Status 6
Continued Actions and Considerations: 7
Conclusion 7
APPENDIX 8
Wednesday, 26 January 2022: Update of locations: 8
Thursday,28 January 2022 8
Travel Numbers Provided by OPP 8
Convoy OBSERVATIONS 9
ITAC Threat Assessment 9
Friday 28 January, 2022 PERSONS OF INTEREST 10

3rd PARTY RULES

INTRODUCTION

The Freedom Convoy is a spontaneous grass roots protest. The goals, according to its GoFundMe, is for Ottawa to "cease all mandates"; no vaccine passports, no COVID strictures at the border and a definite end to Ottawa's new vaccinate mandate on cross-border truckers. At the time of writing, there is no critical intelligence that defines a specific plan to violence, however, social media reveals that persons with extremist political views are increasingly posting in support of the Convoy.

The most likely police matter at this time, **will be the vast number of vehicles on area roads**. The Convoy will be able to stop and effectively shut down movement if they desire. Because the movement relies on cellular phones to communicate with each other, the area bandwidth of local carriers will be inundated, and communications within the Convoy may be impaired by this. OPS saw serious interruption to cellular communications with the October 2014 Parliament Hill attack. **Therefore, we expect to see a huge volume of vehicles and large transport trucks clogging city roads, and the ability to communicate and move the truckers on may be hampered by the cell saturation.** OPS planners may want to contact area cellular carriers to determine if open comms can be maintained between OPS Special Events and Convoy representatives.

OVERVIEW

Business groups have been urging Ottawa to back down on vaccine mandates for truckers in order to relieve the congested supply chain with the United States. Weekend video [twitter.com] from Salmon Arm, B.C. shows a truck convoy being greeted by hundreds of sign-wielding supporters lining the Trans-Canada Highway.

- As trucks left Abbotsford, B.C., they passed underneath highway overpasses [twitter.com] utterly jammed with supporters waving Canadian flags and signs reading "No Forced Vax for Truckers."
- In Edmonton on Sunday, massive convoys of trucks [twitter.com] blasting their horns were seen lining freeways outside the city, and in Calgary drivers were greeted by throngs of supporters [twitter.com] at truck stops.
- As of press time, a GoFundMe for the convoy had raised $3.5 million [gofundme.com].
- A Facebook group [facebook.com] for the convoy has 397,000 members – more than a tenth of the Canadian population.

Only on Monday did the convoy first receive acknowledgement from major party leaders. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau obliquely mentioned the protests [nationalpost.com] while accusing Conservatives of "fear mongering" by linking trucker vaccine mandates to supply chain disruptions.

One of the only major organizations to comment on the protest has been the Canadian Trucking Alliance **which previously opposed vaccine mandates on truckers – is now advising truckers to comply and "strongly disapproves" of protests to the contrary**. "This regulation is not changing so, as an industry, we must adapt and comply with this mandate," wrote the group in a Saturday statement. **These conditions create grounds for passionate emotions.**

3rd PARTY RULES

CURRENT CONDITIONS

There are increasing numbers of spontaneous protests against regimes globally concerning Covid-19 restrictions, with protests in the USA, Canada (Ottawa), and Europe. **The success of global protests on the subject of vaccine mandates, etc., creates a sense of efficacy, a sense that one's actions actually have an impact. Political efficacy builds commitment, and this may impact event planning by developing a protester pool of unusually large size.** Additionally, the federal government is **strenuously Ignoring the event**. Historically, refusal of a leader to meet or address the reality of a popular uprising has, historically, led to situations becoming unmanageable.

Most protests are repetitive. Same players, same chants. And what they are pleased to call tactics, same there. Block a city intersection close to downtown media outlets. Have two or three glue themselves to something, waiting for the same old supper-hour news shows and write-ups in hard-left handbills, blogs, and undernourished Twitter feeds. The vast majority has long ago stopped giving them any attention. And to paraphrase National Post stringer Catherine Levesque, "**A true protest, one that's grounded in actual circumstances, that arises from long-term government overreach emerges from discontent long discounted and ignored, built around the cardinal idea of pursuing a legitimate livelihood, well, that's rare. That's what we're seeing with the truckers.**"

There was a protest movement like this in France a couple of years ago. The so-called "yellow-vests" demonstrations came in response to a rise in fuel prices that hit the working class very hard. A real protest springs up with something close to spontaneity and with tremendous suddenness enlists hundreds of thousands, even millions. **The Convoy appears to be this sort of protest, and as a result, the daily reports by OPP (HENDON) show that the convoy is steadily and continuously attracting support;** financial, social, physical, and other. **Multiple daily reports are needed to keep up.**

Summation:

- There is a quickly growing financial fund that can pay for food, lodging, fuel, and legal costs.
- This event is, as described above, less of a "professional protest" with the usual sad players, but rather, is a truly organic grass roots event that is gathering momentum largely from the widespread population. **Read: Expect Very Large Crowds.**
- There appears to be (sources: open-source media and social media reporting) a powerful manifestation of deep discontent with how people feel they are being governed. Discontent with authority may slumber for a very long while. As per pundit Rex Murphy: "**Resentment over the hypocrisies of officials and politicians can daily wear at the patience of citizens. When it finally meets a successful protest to air their grievance, there may be larger crowds and longer disruptions than was ever planned for."**

It may spring from a single incident or a single policy, but as political pundit Rex Murphy opined, "…It inevitably grows beyond the original trigger event to a large-scale…Disruption in the ordinary daily life of people may be sullenly tolerated over a protracted period. Most people, as we say, will "put up with a lot," but the time will come when even the most tranquil of citizens will say "no more!" Most people don't particularly like to protest. The middle class don't go to the woods to attend "direct action" seminars or learn what's the best glue to work on paved surfaces or pick up tips from an antifa mob. They have what are called "lives." Work. Family. But, when the middle class rises, the volume of protesters challenges the ability to manage the event, **and staffing matters should be addressed before the need arises.**

SOP PARTY RULES

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR EVENT PLANNERS

- Police are seeing video online, where vehicles in the convoy stretch highways as long as the eye can see. This visual is significant and is being re-broadcast to pump up the spirits of the protesters, leading to more involvement and participation.
- Additionally, observers are seeing frequent videos of citizens cheering on the convoy from bridge overpasses and sides of highways. This suggests that the general public is buying into this event in a big way, and as a result, large crowds and huge numbers of vehicles will be on the streets of Ottawa from January 28-31 at least.
- In 6 years of working large demonstration events from the intelligence point of view, the writer has never seen such widespread community action, which means three things for planners:

    1. the event is likely going to be bigger in crowd size than any demo in recent history, possibly on par with Canada Day events but more disruptive.
    2. There is significant popular support for this event on a scale not seen in recent years. This means the protest groups have access to larger protester pools than they have ever had access to, which means there will be likely widespread disorganization and confusion.
    3. Local area bandwidth for cellular/mobile devices will be impacted significantly, causing communications issues for both the police and the event organizers. Planners should be ready to have police radios on hand to avoid clogged cellular networks.

The demographic of the Convoy is very unusual; the protests globally are made up almost entirely of middle-class members of society. Since the so-called “silent majority” is numerically much larger than the professional activists. **As a result, law enforcement is being met with numbers of people beyond the norm.**

SECURITY ISSUES: OVERVIEW

Lone Actor Concerns/crowd whispering

As the event becomes larger and larger, OSINT is revealing the occasional (and not unexpected) online instigators, lone actor-instigators, who advise others to use violence if encountering police barricades. This “crowd whispering” takes place frequently in very large protest events. The people engaging in the “whispering” get a sick thrill from just basically trolling the legitimate protesters. There are people from a variety of “fringe” entities who enjoy detracting from the goal of the group, or who make trolling commentary on social media for the thrill they get of watching the world burn. The best remedy is to have Special Events organizers reach out to Convoy organizers, asking Convoy organizers to denounce any hint of violence in the online discussions surrounding the event.

ACTIVE INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS

The Security Intelligence Section is constantly assessing any incoming intelligence from various sources including members of the service and members of the public. At this time, there is no adverse intelligence regarding the events planned for the Convoy’s presence in Ottawa.

3RD PARTY RULES

CRIMINAL/TERRORIST THREAT

Individuals and /or groups that could potentially pose a threat during the Convoy.

- The RCMP in its *National Critical Infrastructure Bulletin* specifies that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) still names Canada and Canadians as a suggested target.
- ISIS has encouraged simple knife and gun attacks, as well as the use of a vehicle to run over pedestrians, and have been stepping up attacks in Western Europe.
- The open nature of this event, coupled with the high concentration of attendees may further add to potential appeal among certain individuals who may embrace extremist ideologies.
- Special Events should have security plans should in place for all gatherings, particularly those associated to heavy media presence (Parliament Hill).

CURRENT NATIONAL THREAT STATUS

Currently the Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC) places the National Threat Level at Medium and is defined as follows:

Threat Level for Canada	
MEDIUM	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism *in Canada*. ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism could occur. (U//FOUO)

Further, the current Threat Level towards uniform personnel shall be considered 'MEDIUM' as well. Should the status of this Threat Level change updates will be disseminated immediately.

The Ottawa Police – Security Intelligence Section have completed indices checks with municipal, provincial, and federal partner agencies. No adverse intelligence or any intelligence concerning a specific threat towards this event has been determined at this time.

3rd PARTY RULES

CONTINUED ACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

1. OPS-SIS will perform checks of social media to monitor potential demonstrations or actions that could adversely impact the event/will report.

Event Planners Should Consider:

2. Social media awareness of increased police presence, increased surveillance and increased suspicious person stops by police to deter potential lone wolf actors from risking carrying out a plan.
3. Physical barriers to impede weaponized vehicles (accompanied by Carbine officer).
4. Regular intelligence updates (source info, OSINT) to assist officers on the site.

CONCLUSION

OPS Security Intelligence Section continues to research open source and social media, to investigate existing intelligence pieces and to liaise with its Federal and Provincial partners for any indicators of possible disruptions to the Convoy. Should this intelligence assessment change as a result of new intelligence, this report will be updated accordingly and disseminated.

If you have any questions, please contact Sgt. Chris Kiez (613) 236-1222 ext 2468, Det. George Bouris (613) 236-1222 ext 2467 or Detective Stephane Quesnel (613) 236-1222 ext 2846.

3rd PARTY RULES

APPENDIX

WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2022: UPDATE OF LOCATIONS:

- **Saturday January 29th at 11am** – Confed Park – organizing speakers to speak to the crowd (Julie Ponesse – Western University Professor)
- **Sunday January 30th at 11am** – Confed Park – organizing a church service and will be setting up tents and BBQ at Confed Park (home base), they will also have 2 food trucks
    - Still working on a march to PH. They will provide details once they have more info

~~**Wednesday, 26**~~**Source:** Ottawa City Traffic management **Intelligence**: Unclassified

- As the Convoy enters the NCR today and over the weekend, City of Ottawa Traffic Management will be updating their Twitter accounts and website frequently. Please refer to them for timely road closure and traffic update intelligence. Twitter Account @Ottawa_Traffic @Ottawa_Circule Traffic Website Traffic.Ottawa.ca

THURSDAY,28 JANUARY 2022~~: VIDEO AND AUDIO FEEDS OF INTEREST.~~

Joint Intelligence Group (JIG) which is chaired by OPS-SIS, and has OPP, RCMP, Gatineau Police, Surete du Quebec meets to discuss persons of interest. Persons of Interest are being generated daily.

Open-source research continues to identify social media posts and comments from social media users which incite violence and unlawful activity. Social media posts indicating “TRUDEAU we are coming for you” and “storm Parliament” have been identified. Some individuals have also mentioned the possibility that the convoy will be blocked or slowed down. This type of dialogue could raise tensions within the convoy.

TRAVEL NUMBERS PROVIDED BY OPP

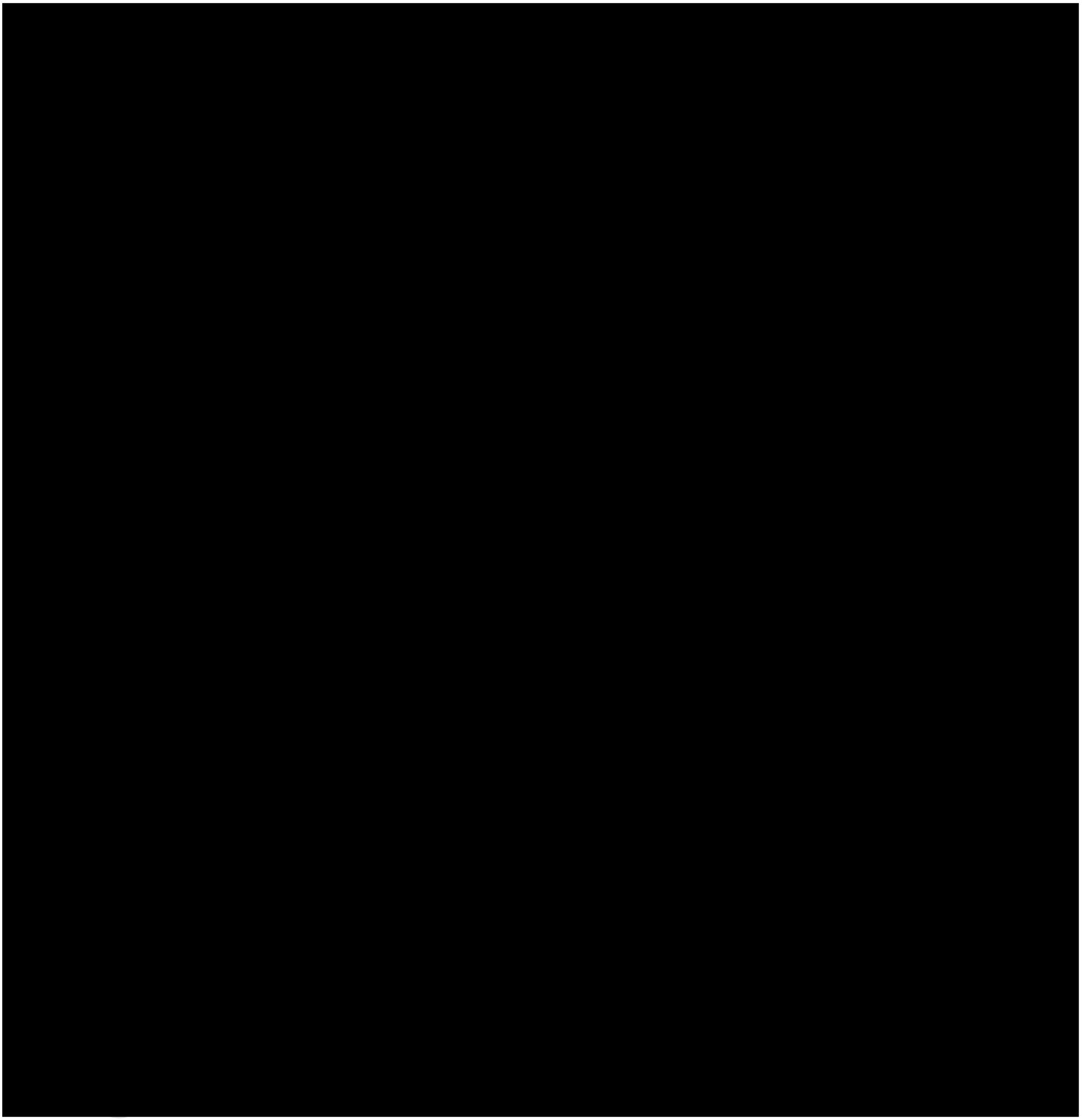
- Confirmed numbers provided by OPP:
    - West Convoy (Thunder Bay-Sault Ste. Marie 2022-01-27): 471
    - South Convoy D (Niagara – Kingston 2022-01-27): 70
    - Hearst Convoy (2022-01-27): 10
    - No other convoy numbers confirmed at this time.
- Significant number of supporters on overpasses throughout the province. No incidents reported.
- The announcement that PM TRUDEAU is currently in isolation appears to be fueling the rhetoric that TRUDEAU is “hiding from the convoy”.
- It is still unclear what the group from the South convoy will be doing in Ottawa on January 28, 2022 once they arrive.

ORDER PARTY RULES

CONVOY OBSERVATIONS

- Convoy members appear to be stocking up on food and supplies which could indicate that they have long term plans to stay in Ottawa.
- Various drone images and videos of the convoy are circulating through open sources. **It is possible that these drones could be used in Ottawa.**
- **Social media posts which mention the possibility for the convoy to attend 24 Sussex Drive or the Harrington Cottage continue to be identified. No details or additional intelligence have been identified.**
- The GoFundMe page currently sits at over $6.5 million.
- It is still unclear at this time how the GoFundMe funds will be distributed.
- **Increase in social media posts from user suggesting that violence should be used if the government does not acknowledge the convoy. No threats or credible plans have been identified.**
- Jeremy MACKENZIE (a.k.a."RAGING DISSIDENT") has been posting regularly about the convoy and may be attending the Convoy in Ottawa. MACKENZIE is reported to have some generalized extreme far-right, racist, conspiracy-theory-fueled views with complicating factors like military experience/deployments and association to some concerning groups. **The RCMP has advised that MACKENZIE has been arrested but have since been released.**
    - MACKENZIE posted a video on his personal Instagram page (@ragingdissident2) at approximately 1500hrs in which he mentions that he is just ahead of the convoy and has just passed through Fredericton, NB.
    - **MACKENZIE posted another video at approximately 1000hrs in which he mentions that all participants should remain peaceful and not engage in any violent behavior.**
- An image was posted to Twitter at 1334hrs on 2022-01-27 by CBC reported Ian BLACK, in which a large tractor trailer is seen stopped at the corner of Elgin Street and Rideau Street in Ottawa. The truck has "Fuck Trudeau" printed on the side of the trailer.
- The writer confirms personally seeing trucks bearing the "Fuck Trudeau" message on the side in Carleton Place, Ontario (Highway 7).

ITAC THREAT ASSESSMENT



FRIDAY 28 JANUARY, 2022 PERSONS OF INTEREST

The persons of interest (POI) list is comprised almost entirely of sensitive intelligence which has originated from other police agencies. As a result, the vast majority of POIs are not reported here owing to the 3rd Party Rule.

Key Issue # 1: The combined Covert Crowd Observations Teams (COTs) will be furnished with the full POI list. The reason is, they will be the sole officers who will be active in the crowds at key areas of concern, looking for any of the POIs or for any aspects of violence that threatens life.

Key Issue # 2: The Crowds Observations Teams work entirely off of cellphones, with radio backup. When the local cell towers are inundated in certain areas downtown, the COTs will still have hard-copy reference material for the purpose of identifying key POIs, with a view to surveilling them to watch for any violent or insurrectionist behavior. COTs will report any concerns to the NCRCC by cell/messenger (Signal) or by police radio.

POIs of concern have in some cases had access to firearms, and some POIs have made comments on open source that they intend to bring their firearms, etc. In two cases at least, POIs outside Ottawa and often outside Ontario, have been met by police who seized firearms in the interests of public safety, where comments about firearms have been made on open-source social media.

The Joint Intelligence Group is informing the key Executive decision makers at the Insp. And Supt. Levels of the POIs, their details and pedigree intelligence, so that privacy/Third Party is observed, yet the decision makers are fully informed of all aspects and levels of threat that each POI presents.

3rd PARTY RULES